



KAIMUKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 4

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 15, 2006 LILIUOKALANI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Abe at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was not present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Edison Lum, Jim Cone, Eduardo Hernandez, Daniel Nahoopii, Mike Abe, Randolph Hack, Sharon Schneider (appointed at this meeting).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Daniel Carvalho.

GUESTS: Sgt. G. Reese, Officer R. Kalahiko, Sgt. G. Maekawa, Lt. A. Delima (HPD), Isaac Strauss, James Toyooka (DOE). Boy Scouts Troop 10: Jonathan Lau, Ryan Kanetoku, Landon Nagata, Chris Wong, Chris Kodama, Erik Wong, Kelsey Abe, Joshua Shon, Nick Yee. Chester Lao (Board of Water Supply), Glenn Yamasaki, Francisco Figueiredo (Councilmember Charles Djou's Office), Susan Jackson (Governor's Office), Isaac Strauss, Gail Okamura (Leahi Hospital), Representative Barbara Marumoto, Jay Ishibashi (Mayor's Office), Tam (Tam's Shoe Repair Shop), Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Jeff Alves, Capt. Robert Marshman (HFD-Kaimuki Station) Representative Lyla Berg, Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

FILLING OF BOARD VACANCIES: Deferred due to lack of quorum.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT - Officer Kalahiko distributed a written report and reported the following:

1. Statistics for January compared to December included: Beat 575, Upper Kapahulu – 1/1 burglary, 3/3 thefts, 2/2 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles; Beat 758, Lower Kapahulu – 1/0 burglary, 3/0 thefts, 1/2 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles; Beat 759, Kahala Mall – 3/2 burglaries, 7/4 thefts, 0/1 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles; Beat 760, Diamond Head Lookouts – 3/2 burglaries, 6/8 thefts, 8/8 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles; Beat 762, St. Louis Drive – 3/3 burglaries, 6/3 thefts, 3/1 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles; Beat 765, Kaimuki town – 5/6 burglaries, 9/3 thefts, 3/2 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles; Beat 766, Wilhelmina Rise – 1/1 burglaries, 0/3 thefts, 0/0 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles.
2. The report includes a "Burglary Prevention Checklist."

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Follow up will be done on suspicious/drug activity near 12 th Avenue and Maunalei Avenue.

Sgt. Reese reported property crime cases under investigation include: illegal gambling activity, a theft from vehicle where a checkbook was stolen and the suspect was arrested trying to use the checks, and arrest made in a theft of moped case where the suspect tried to extort money from the victim.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Property crime cases are believed to be drug-related.

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – A report was made later in the meeting.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY – Chester Lao, from the Board of Water Supply, reported the following:

1. The recent rainy weather has helped with conservation efforts and well levels are holding.



2. The new Manager and Chief Engineer for the Board of Water Supply is Clifford Lum, a brief biography followed.
3. Last month there were four water main breaks in this area, including two in the 4600 block of Sierra Drive. Temporary patches have been made to the road surface, permanent patches are to be made.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. "No Parking" signs for construction work have been posted in the 1700 block of Wilhelmina Rise for months, but no work has been observed. Lau noted that this is not for a Board of Water Supply project.
2. The cause of two of the water main breaks is unknown, the cause of the ones on Sierra Drive is probably due to age as the mains are 70+ years old. There is an ongoing water main replacement project in the Sierra Drive area since 2003.

Lau was thanked for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT AND CONCERNS:

REQUEST FOR LEFT-TURN LANES – Installation of left-turn lanes on Koko Head Avenue, between Harding and Waiālae Avenues, was requested to ease backups on Koko Head Avenue. Governor's Office representative Dr. Susan Jackson, will follow up as Chair Abe noted this area is under State Department of Transportation jurisdiction.

NEW CROSSWALK LAW – It was noted that drivers yielding the right of way to pedestrians in crosswalks when making left-turns is causing backups.

MISSING "NO PARKING CORNER TO HERE" SIGNS – A resident noted that residents are stealing "No Parking Corner to Here" signs from various locations on Wilhelmina Rise to gain on-street parking spaces, but the parked cars are creating line-of-sight problems. Replacement of the signs was requested along with the installation of "Yield" signs in various locations. A question was also raised that if a street excavation construction project is creating a hazard for pedestrians, is this an OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) violation?

SUNSHINE LAW – Hack reported that Senate Bill 2712 proposes changes to the law affecting determination of membership quorum of boards and commissions from basing quorum on the total allowed seats to the number of filled seats. Chair Abe explained the quorum for this Board and the effect the vacancies has on obtaining quorum at meetings, and that Senator Ihara has been working on Sunshine Law bills.

ELECTED OFFICIALS OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES:

MAYOR'S OFFICE – Jay Ishibashi, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the following:

1. Suggestions have been made for proposed changes to the Sunshine Law to include clarifications on the number of members of boards and commissions allowed to attend outside meetings.
2. In response to a request from a previous meeting to install trash cans on a section of Waiālae Avenue, the Department of Facility Maintenance reported "All of TheBus stops along Waiālae Avenue currently have litter receptacles which are serviced by the City and County. We believe that there are sufficient numbers of litter receptacles to service the public's needs. Restaurants and all commercial establishments are required to properly dispose of the rubbish generated by their operations. If there is a need for litter receptacles to service their customers, the restaurants are required to provide those receptacles and service them as a normal cost of doing business." Ishibashi also noted businesses have been dumping their trash in City receptacles.
3. Regarding a request for a No Parking restriction on Mahina Street, the Department of Transportation Services met with Līluokalani School principal James Toyooka and a Department of Education representative. The principal's concerns have been addressed and the request will not be pursued.

4. Regarding a request for additional "No Parking" signs on Koko Head Avenue, near the State Library, the area in question is under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Transportation. Governor's Office representative Jackson will follow up.
5. Regarding a question about the status of the Kilauea Park tennis court resurfacing project, the resurfacing has been completed, but reopening of the courts has been delayed until the landscaping work is completed.
6. Regarding previously stated comments about the new crosswalk law causing traffic back ups by drivers making left turns, the Department of Transportation Services is aware of the concern, which is widespread.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The comprehensive curbside recycling project planned by the previous Administration has been deemed too expensive to implement at this time. The current Administration is implementing an automated green waste only recycling program. It was noted the City Council is working on a bill to require comprehensive curbside recycling by January 2007.
2. Follow up will be done on "No Parking" signs for construction work posted in the 1700 block of Wilhelmina Rise for months, but no work has been observed.
3. There will be a recycling drive at Liliuokalani Elementary School, February 19, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
4. Follow up will be done on the status of the "temporary" rerouting of TheBus No. 3 route. The change continues to inconvenience some riders.
5. Follow up will be done on the status of the Maunalani Park renovation project. It was noted graffiti and illegal drinking continue to be a problem at this park and its isolated location contributes to this problem.

Ishibashi was thanked for attending the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER ANN KOBAYASHI – A written report was received and made available for interested persons to review.

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES DJOU – Francisco Figueiredo, from Councilmember Djou's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The Council met today, tomorrow, and February 23 on real property tax relief bills.
2. The Mayor will deliver the State of the City Address on February 24, City Council Chambers.

There were no questions from the Board or guests. Figueiredo was thanked for attending the meeting.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – Dr. Jackson distributed the Governor's weekly report, and highlighted/added the following:

1. The legislature is working on some 3000 bills have been introduced during the current session of the legislature, and carryover bills from the last session. Approximately 40 percent of the bills affect her department, the State Department of Health.
2. Recycling bills are also a priority.
3. Recycling of bottles has achieved a monthly return rate as high as 85 percent, with an overall average of 61 percent.

4. There is a scam going on by a person pretending to be a State Department of Health (DOH) employee conducting a health services survey seeking personal information in exchange for a \$1000 gift certificate. The Department of Health is not conducting such a survey.
5. The recent arson fire at the DOH offices' lobby closed the building for one day, and the fire, police departments, and State Sheriff's Office were commended for their response to this situation.
6. The Governor has been attending legislative committee meetings on matters of personal concern.
7. The first C-17 cargo plane has arrived at Hickam Air Force Base and the Governor was a guest aboard the first flight.
8. Regarding a request for repair of a street light on the overpass at Harding and 16th avenues, repairs will be made, and it was noted that of a number of street lights in this area, some are under State and some under City jurisdiction.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. The State Department of Health opposes Senate Bill 3281 and House Bill 3185, relating to HIV/AIDS policy commission, as the commission would do what the department already does.
2. Follow up will be done on distribution of federal funding from the Ryan White Fund. It was noted that this funding for medication has been flat, and cannot be used for housing or transportation.

Dr. Jackson was thanked for attending the meeting.

Hernandez and Cone arrived during the above portion of the meeting. A quorum was now present. Chair Abe deferred the agenda to take Filling of Vacancies at this time. There were no objections.

FILLING OF VACANCIES, ONE SEAT IN SUBDISTRICT 2, WILHELMINA RISE – Sharon Schneider expressed interest in filling the vacancy. **Schneider was appointed to the Board by unanimous consent.** The Neighborhood Assistant administered the oath of office to Schneider.

The order of the agenda resumed.

Lum left at this time.

SENATOR LES IHARA, JR. – Senator Ihara reported the following:

1. Bills relating to changes to the Sunshine Law are progressing, work is being done on additional legislation for the next session of the legislature. He also introduced a bill to include Neighborhood Board members under the State Ethics Code, currently they are excluded.
2. Legislation affecting senior citizens is one of his priorities.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Follow up will be done on the status of Senate Bill 2712, relating to the sunshine law and a Senate Concurrent Resolution relating to the military readiness enhancement act and the don't ask, don't tell, law.

Senator Ihara was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE CALVIN SAY – Representative Say distributed his monthly report which lists his priorities in the areas of education, housing, and energy.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Approximately 2000 bills were introduced in the House, approximately 10 percent will survive.
2. Work is being done on tax credits and other tax relief measures related to use of the surplus tax revenue. Use of the surplus includes \$160 million for school repair and maintenance, \$80 million to the University of Hawaii for repair and maintenance, and \$160 million for agricultural irrigation systems.
3. The number of affordable housing units is not increasing, but decreasing, with few new units being built and conversion of affordable units, such as Kukui Gardens in Downtown Honolulu to market price in the coming years.
4. He was not aware of federal lands currently being offered for sale, and noted that some of these lands, if available, that might be returned to the State are ceded lands.
5. The UH Board of Regents has jurisdiction on what out of state and foreign students are charged for tuition, etc. There is a differential between what State residents and out of state residents are charged. He noted that the UH, like other universities, compete for foreign students.
6. There is \$10 million in the budget for renovation of existing affordable units, \$10 million to develop new housing on State lands.
7. He continues to work on increasing the minimum wage, and acknowledged that the minimum wage will never be a living wage.
8. The Housing and Community Development Authority that controls development on State lands in the Kakaako area, should more to develop affordable housing.
9. The budget surplus has been estimated at \$560 million. The State's economy could be adversely impacted by a possible strike by Unit 5 Hotel workers as part of a nation wide strike at the end of the current fiscal year.

Representative Say was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE BARBARA MARUMOTO – Representative Marumoto distributed her monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The report includes a list of bills she introduced, which include House Bill 2049, relating to restroom parity to expand women's restrooms in State facilities, and House Bill 2049, relating to victim notification requirements – the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's Office has such a system, but Neighbor Island offices do not.
2. The written report lists Capital Improvement Project funding released by the Governor for area schools, and congratulations to Constance Lau, the new CEO of Hawaiian Electric Industries and HECO, Board member Eduardo Hernandez who has been appointed executive director of The Center, former Congressman Pat Saiki who spoke about her past legislative service in a documentary showed at a Planned Parenthood fundraiser, Rai Saint Chu, executive director of Hawaii Independent Schools, Robert Witt for testifying on behalf of the establishment of a Hiram Fong scholarship at the University of Hawaii.
3. She is proud to be named the recipient of the Women's Lawyers President's Ward for her legislative achievements.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

The music festival in Diamond Head Crater is scheduled for April 1. Follow up will be done about a presentation to the Board on traffic impacts to the surrounding community.

REPRESENTATIVE LYLA BERG - Representative Berg distributed her monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. The report lists bills she introduced, including: House Bill 2114, relating to fines for graffiti violations, which has passed in committee; House Bill 2169, relating to requiring signs in State buildings, parks, facilities and other State public sites, also be displayed in Hawaiian.
2. Sustainability Task Force Meeting, February 23, State Capitol Auditorium, 9:00 a.m.; School Community Councils Forum, March 3, Japanese Cultural Center, 9:00 a.m.; Lawmakers Listen Forum, March 29, Kalani High School cafeteria.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. State Court buildings already display signs in Hawaiian.
2. The Sustainability Task Force Meeting will include discussion on water and fishing resources.

Representative Berg was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT NISHIMOTO – A written report was received and made available for interested persons to review.

ORGANIZATIONS:

KAPIOLANI COMMUNITY COLLEGE – No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON REAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND FORUM – Chair Abe reported the City Council has heard 5 of 19 bills in committee today and will meet tomorrow on additional bills. A variety of measures are being discussed. The Council is scheduled to receive the Administration's budget on March 1, and that budget will affect work on the property tax relief bills.

No plans on the forum were announced at this time.

KAIMUKI PARKING PROBLEM – FORMATION OF COMMITTEE – Deferred.

KAIMUKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD PLANNING COMMITTEE – FORMATION OF COMMITTEE – Chair Abe reported he, Nahoopii and Schneider have volunteered to serve on the committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Deferred.

NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: Liliuokalani Elementary School recycling project, February 19, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Chair Abe deferred the order of the agenda. There were no objections.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT – Capt. Marshman, of the Kaimuki Station's ladder truck, reported the station's engine company responded to 18 medical, 4 fire calls and 10 other calls; the ladder company responded to 63 medical and 2 other calls. There were no major fires in this area last month.

Safety Tip: Space heaters should be labeled UL Approved, be cleaned regularly of dust, and plugged directly into an outlet.

The order of the agenda resumed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 17, 2005, MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2005 MEETING, MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2005, MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD FOR THE NOVEMBER 16, 2005, AND MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD OF THE JANUARY 18, 2006 MEETING - Hack moved and Nahoopii seconded that the minutes and memorandums be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board recessed in December.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant